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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method comprising:

selecting a first data record stored at a first level of a data model, the first data record being connected to other first-level data by way of central data stored at a second level of the data model;

associating the first data record with a grouping value that is generated based on a pre-determined grouping reason;

selecting a second data record stored at the first level; and

associating the second data record with the grouping value, such that a modification of the first data record will result in a synchronizing modification of the second data record.

2. (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the grouping value is time-dependent.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 comprising:

determining that the grouping value has changed from a first grouping value to a second grouping value with respect to the first data record; and

re-assessing synchronization of the first data record and second data record based on the second grouping value.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein re-assessing synchronization of the first data record and second data record based on the second grouping value comprises:

determining that the second data record continues to be associated with the first grouping value;

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splitting the first data record into a first potion and a second portion that are associated with the first grouping value and the second grouping value, respectively; and

modifying content of the second portion to reflect association with the second grouping value.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein associating the first data record with the grouping value comprises:

examining contents of a pre-designated record of a set of data records of which the first data record is a part; and

generating the grouping value based on the contents.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first data record and the second data record are time-dependent and time-constrained.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the central data includes data related to a single person.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the first data record relates to a first work assignment of the person, and the second data record relates to a second work assignment of the person.

9. (Withdrawn) A system comprising:

a grouping reasons database designating a field in each of a plurality of sets of data records; and

a grouping engine operable to input a first set of data records, determine the field based on input from the grouping reasons database, and generate a grouping value for the first set of data records based on content stored in the field,

wherein the grouping engine is further operable to synchronize first data stored in the first set of data records with second data stored in a second set of data records and associated with the grouping value.

10. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein the grouping value is time-dependent.

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11. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein the first data and the second data are time-dependent and time-constrained.

12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein the grouping engine comprises a re-grouping engine operable to re-synchronize the first data and the second data based on a change in the grouping value from a fist value to a second value.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein the first data and the second data are stored at a first level of a multi-tiered data model.

14. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 further comprising wherein the grouping engine is operable to associate the first data with a first timeline and the second data with a second timeline, and further operable to associate the grouping value with a common portion of the first timeline and the second timeline.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14 comprising time constraint logic that is operable to insert third data into the first timeline, the third data overlapping the common portion of the first timeline and a consecutive portion thereof that is associated with a changed grouping value, and further operable to split the third data into a first record associated with the grouping value and a second record associated with the changed grouping value.

16. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising a storage medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions including:

a first code segment for determining a first timeline associated with a first sequence of data records;

a second code segment for determining a second timeline associated with a second sequence of data records;

a third code segment for associating a grouping value with a common period of the first timeline and the second timeline; and

a fourth code segment for synchronizing contents of the fist sequence of records and the second sequence of records within the period, based on the grouping value.

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17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first sequence of data records and the second sequence of data records are subject to a timeline constraint.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first sequence of data records and the second sequence of data records are associated with a first level of a multi-leveled data model and associated with one another via third data at a second level of the data model.

19. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the fourth code segment includes a fifth code segment for de-limiting a data record of the first sequence of data records to reflect an ending of a validity period of the grouping value.

20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the third code segment includes a fifth code segment for generating the grouping value based on data within a pre-designated field within a set of data records associated with the first sequence of data records.